policy decisions and also for developing intelligence regarding duty evasion. The number of such companies currently is approximately 1700.

(c) By the very nature of things it is not possible to furnish any estimate of Central Excise duty evasion. However, the amount of Central Excise duty evasion actually *detected* during the years 1987, 1988 and 1989 (up to May) is furnished below:

(Rs. in crores)

| Year | Amount of evasion detected |
|---|---|
| 1987 . . . . . | 1198.72 |
| 1988 . . . . . | 355.43 |
| 1989 (up to May, 1989) . . | 136.01 |
| TOTAL . . . . | 1690.16 |

**Seizure of gold biscuits by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence**

3105. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 206 foreign marked gold biscuits weighing 24 kgs. were seized by officers of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence from a Maruti Car on Delhi-Haryana on June 8, 1989;

(b) if so, what are the details of the persons apprehended in this connection; and

(c) at what stage the prosecution stands at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Yes Sir. Officers of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence seized 206 foreign marked gold biscuits weighing over 24 kgs. worth Rs. 76.88 lakhs approximately from a Maruti Car on Delhi-Haryana border on 8th June, 1989.

(b) and (c) 3 persons namely, S/Shri Mahesh Chauhan, Vijay Kumar Dharne and Sanjeev Kumar Agarwal have been arrested and also detained under the provisions of the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974.

**Steps to curb smuggling by sea, air and land**

3106. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether necessary steps have been taken by the Government to curb smuggling by sea, air and land along the borders of India;

(b) if so, what are the commodity-wise details of seizures during the past three years; and

(c) whether there has been any decline in these activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) The Government is firmly resolved to combat the menace of smuggling. The anti-smuggling drive has been intensified and the anti-smuggling machinery throughout the country, particularly at the international airports, seaports and in the vulnerable areas of the coastline and the land borders has been geared up. The coastline of India extends to over 5689 Kms. and we have a total land frontier of about 15,200 Kms bordering Pakistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Burma running through the States of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Assam and the North Eastern States. In view of the magnitude of the task, close co-ordination is being maintained with all the agencies concerned in detection and prevention of smuggling namely: the Coast Guard, Border Security Force and State Police authorities etc. sophisticated equipment such as: X-ray baggage machines Metal detectors and night vision binoculars are being increasingly utilised. The persons found involved in smuggling activities are penalised in de-

partmental adjudication proceedings and also prosecuted in Courts of Law, in appropriate cases. They are also detained under the provisions of the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974, if considered necessary.

(b) and (c) The value of seizures effected by the Customs authorities during the last three years, of important commodities, is given in the table below:

(Value : Rs. in crores)

| Commodities | 1987 | 1988 | 1989* (up to 31st July) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Gold | 65.78 | 200.53 | 177.27 |
| Silver | 9.06 | 10.56 | 26.84 |
| Currency | 8.73 | 13.18 | 5.48 |
| Watches | 11.02 | 3.27 | 1.41 |
| Electronic goods | 17.20 | 24.24 | 8.99 |
| Synthetic fabrics | 8.75 | 11.41 | 4.63 |

*Figures are provisional.

Smuggling being a clandestine activity, it is not feasible to estimate the extent of increase or decline in such activities at any given time.

**Advance plan assistance for textile mills in Maharashtra**

3107. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra Government has asked for any advance plan assistance to run the closed textile mills in the State; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what decision the Central Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) The Central Government had received a proposal from Maharashtra Government regarding Advance Plan assistance for the revival of Shreeniwas Mills, Bombay and Khandesh Spinning and Weaving Mills Jalgaon. However, the same was not agreed to as the units were found unviable.

***Permission by RBI for opening bank branches at Loni, Uttar Pradesh***

3108. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of banks to which the Reserve Bank of India has given permission to open their branches in the residential area of Loni in Uttar Pradesh border during the current year and for the next year; and

(b) by when bank facility would be made available to the residents of the said areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the centre Loni is being served by a branch of State Bank of India and no bank has been allotted a licence for opening a branch in the residential